Increasing freight earnings of Railways

3779. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aiming to increase the freight earnings of railways and cut load on road traffic;

(b) if so, the details worked out, so far; and

(c) the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Government are aiming to increase the freight earnings of Railways.

(b) For the year 2006-07, the freight loading target has been set at 726 million tonnes and freight output at 479 billion tonne kilometers. Revenues in freight in the year 2006-07 is expected to be Rs. 40320 crore.

(c) In order to generate additional traffic, Indian Railways have introduced various schemes such as Freight Forwarder Scheme, Traditional Empty Flow Direction Freight Discount Scheme, Loyalty Discount Scheme, Long-term Special Incentive Scheme, Mini Rake, Two-point Rake Scheme, Wagon Investment Scheme (WIS), Development of Rail-side Warehousing complexes through Public Private partnership (RWCs) and Liberalization of siding rules.

Railway land in Delhi

†3780. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a vast area of railway land is available around old Delhi, New Delhi and Nizamuddin railway stations in the capital city Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken or propose to be taken by Government for proper utilization of this railway land available around the said railway stations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Available Railway land in Delhi area is as under:—

1. Delhi Main railway station 13.5 hectare approximately.
2. New Delhi railway station 87.5 hectare approximately.
3. Nizamuddin railway station 69.5 hectare approximately.

(The above area includes station area also)

(c) and (d) The available land around these stations is required for Railways developmental/operational requirements. Various works like improvement of circulating area, construction of new station building at Ajmeri Gate side of New Delhi Railway Station have been undertaken.

Proposal for new railway lines

†3781. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for new railway lines included in the railway budget for the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 for carrying out a survey for the same;

(b) the time-limit fixed for completing the said survey work of these new railway lines;

(c) the norms fixed for approval of new railway lines after completion of the said survey work; and

(d) the figures regarding railway network of the country, and position of Rajasthan regarding railway network *vis-a-vis* other States and the details thereof; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A total of 41 and 40 number of surveys for new lines were included in the railway Budgets 2004-05 and 2005-06 out of which 32 and 8 surveys have been completed respectively. The surveys are normally planned for completion within 2-3 years depending upon the availability of manpower and resources.

(c) The policy for taking up new lines projects was enunciated by the National Transport Policy Committee in 1980. This policy states that new lines would be taken up on the following criteria:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.